

WITH LOCAL PASTORS SUNDAY

TELLS OF FIGHTS TO WIN OVER SIN

Few People Know of Struggles of Sinners to Repent Says Rev. T. J. Parsons.

People that have never been "down and out" during their lives know but little of the struggles of the man who has sinned contends with before he overcomes the many temptations that confront him, according to Rev. T. J. Parsons, pastor of the Quincy Street Baptist church, Sunday evening in his sermon on the subject, "A Battle for a Soul."

"The thing which differentiates man from the lower animals is his moral consciousness. He knows right from wrong, and is conscious that he is responsible for his actions. This moral consciousness is universal throughout the human race, and is the chasm which the Darwinian theory of evolution cannot bridge.

"The flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other, says the scripture, and to this every human soul must respond. It is a battle between good and evil for the soul, and it is a common conflict, for none is exempt. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde dwell in every heart, and the great question is which shall we allow to have the ascendancy.

Fight to the Finish. The Apostle Paul compares these two natures to a Siamese twin, and cries out: "who shall deliver me from this body of death?" A good man who had not tasted liquor for a quarter of a century told me that he never passed a saloon without the temptation assailing him. Only one of these great contestants can ultimately and permanently possess the soul, because they are contrary to and opposite from each other. One is called the "flesh," or natural evil tendencies, and the other is called the "spirit," or influence of God in the heart. Each person determines which shall conquer.

"We do not know what terrific battles are being fought out in some lives; what great moral victories are being won. A woman victim of the morphine habit struggled and prayed incessantly for two years before victory was achieved. Her last words when dying were a prayer of gratitude to God for deliverance. If we could read the hearts of men and women as we pass them on the street, we would have greater sympathy for them. Many of them are uncrowned heroes, diamonds in the rough, who need encouragement rather than condemnation.

"Paul, the apostle, says that victory over the flesh is obtained through Jesus Christ our Lord. The strong Son of God is the soul's champion. Whenever He saw a man or woman in the toils of temptation He had a message of comfort and help for them. In derision He was called the friend of publicans and sinners. Christ was in all points tempted as we are, but without sin, therefore He is able to save them evermore that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."

WORLD IN NEED OF RELIGION

Rev. Freshley Blames Human Ills to Lack of Recognizing Teachings of Jesus.

That a person can be a true Christian and keep the fact concealed was flatly denied by Rev. W. H. Freshley, pastor of the First Evangelical church, Sunday night in his sermon on the subject, "The Healing Touch."

He described three miracles of Jesus in which human help failed. Here the Father proves Himself master of devils, disease and death. He is also shown here as a man's Christ, woman's Christ and child's Christ.

"Give Christ right of way and He will make a cure complete, eternal for time and eternity," said Rev. Freshley. "Many attempts at social, religious and spiritual reforms have failed because Jesus was left out.

"If Christ has His way the millions spent in militarism and war would be spent for evangelization of the world and that would make war impossible. If Christ had His way there would be no strikes, for if endowed with the spirit of Christ the laborer would give honest service and every employer would give honest living wages.

"If Christ had His way every man, woman and child would get a square deal. We would be ruled by the golden rule and not by the rule of gold. Most of humanity's poverty, heartaches, sorrows and troubles are caused by ignoring the teachings of Jesus. Some would say that this country needs most is socialism and that would remedy all its ills and evils. They are mistaken. What this old, simple, dying world needs is Jesus with His Christian religion. This world needs to touch and be touched by Him.

"There is a great difference between touching and thronging. Hearing sermons, going to church, taking communion, attending prayer meetings may only be thronging and if that is true we get no help.

"It is estimated that 600,000 people left Egypt for the land of promise but only two got there. They were touchers. The throngers left their bones to bleach in the wilderness. Hearing about Him, talking about Him, thronging Him with the crowd will do no good unless we come into real living vital touch with Him.

"When a person comes in touch with Him they will know it. The idea that a person can be a Christian and not know it is false.

"The demon possessed man knew he was free. The leper knew he was cleansed. The blind man knew his eyes were opened and the afflicted woman knew she was healed. So every one who receives pardon for his sins knows it definitely beyond a doubt and can say with the poet: 'Blessed assurance Jesus is mine.'"

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SAYS IDEAS OF TODAY LAUGHED AT LATER

Rabbi Cronbach Says That Which is Theologically Misleading is Psychologically Sound.

All of us carry around in our heads ideas which will be the laughing stock of our grandchildren, according to Rabbi Cronbach in his Sunday morning sermon on the subject "Repentance in Jewish Tradition."

"That which is theologically unacceptable need not be altogether worthless. That which is theologically misleading may, at the same time, be psychologically sound and correct. The real foundation of most human belief is rarely rationality but always their psychological utility. People cherish a doctrine not because of its logical soundness but because of its beneficial effects upon their minds.

"Curious—is it not? Just in our day when we are hearing so much said against capital punishment, we hear so much said in favor of isolation and sterilization. 'Stop killing'—the defective people individually, 'is the modern slogan. Kill them radically.

"It is a fine old Jewish teaching that the penitent sinner shall be spared all embarrassment and humiliation. To remind a person of his bygone sins is called by the old rabbis a species of oppression."

COMPARES PAUL TO TEACHERS TODAY

Rev. G. W. Allison Finds Sermon Theme While Watching School Children.

A comparison to the work of Paul as a teacher of men with schoolmasters of the present day was made by Rev. George William Allison, pastor of Hope Presbyterian church, in his Sunday morning sermon on the subject, "Paul's Schoolmaster."

In speaking of the way in which the topic and thought appeared to him Rev. Allison said:

"The word used for schoolmaster in the New Testament is a Greek word, and occurs in both the Greek and Latin languages. It has the meaning of a 'leader of a child, the guide and guardian of a boy chiefly. We know that it was customary among the Greeks and Romans for parents to entrust their boys to the care of trustworthy educated slaves. These slaves were charged with the duty of supervising and directing the life and morals of boys of the better classes. And boys were not even allowed to step outside of their own homes without being accompanied by their schoolmaster. The schoolmaster was often a severe man in discipline, and enforced his code of morals without pity. The father's discipline was usually much milder than that of the tutor.

"It is this imagery that Paul applies to the law. The law was his schoolmaster in that it was severe in its demands of him. It revealed to him his deficiencies, his sins, and gave him the sense of guilt and wrong by holding up a standard with which he could not perfectly comply. There was however no relief from this guilt. Hence it was that the law brought him to Jesus Christ in whom he found forgiveness and mercy. And as the schoolmaster was severe, so he found the real father of the Lord Jesus compassionate and forgiving.

Meaning of Word. The word used for schoolmaster here is our word 'pedagogue' and occurs in both the Greek and Latin languages. It has the meaning of a 'leader of a child, the guide and guardian of a boy chiefly. We know that it was customary among the Greeks and Romans for parents to entrust their boys to the care of trustworthy educated slaves. These slaves were charged with the duty of supervising and directing the life and morals of boys of the better classes. And boys were not even allowed to step outside of their own homes without being accompanied by their schoolmaster. The schoolmaster was often a severe man in discipline, and enforced his code of morals without pity. The father's discipline was usually much milder than that of the tutor.

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Must be Deficiencies. "Let any man try today to keep the law, or live up to a high moral standard, and he must confess that there will be deficiencies in his conduct. And even though he could live perfectly for a day following that is only his duty, and no atonement for the failures of preceding days. We are unprofitable servants; we have done only that which it was our duty to do. We cannot earn a surplus merit to apply in atonement for past wrongs. Hence we, if we should attempt to keep the moral or even Mosaic law, would find that it would be also a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ by revealing to failure in any attempt at self-justification the sense of our sinfulness and our need. So that we are thrown out upon the mercies and grace of a forgiving Father God as our only hope of justification.—this is justification by faith. So that the law is become our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith."

YOUNG MAN ENDS LIFE Was Expected to Take Up Studies at Georgia University.

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 13.—On the eve of starting for the University of Georgia to begin college studies, William McMurry, 17 years old, was found dead lying on a bed with a pistol clutched in his right hand. None of the family was at home when the shooting took place, and the young man had been in drooping spirits. The coroner has started a probe into the affair.

ATTEND RALLY. A large delegation from the First Evangelical church attended the rally services held at the First Church of Mishawaka Sunday evening when Rev. F. C. Bueker of Cleveland, general secretary of the Sunday school and young people's societies of the Evangelical association, spoke on the purpose and welfare of the societies of the association.

TREMORS FELT. ROME, Sept. 13.—Several tremors were felt at Aquila today following an earthquake which wrecked 20 houses last night. Considerable damage was caused in the surrounding district, but this far no loss of life has been reported.

HEAVEN NO PLACE FOR "DEAD BEATS"

Rev. Decker in Sermon on "Debts" Says No Credit System Allowed by God.

"God doesn't like 'dead beats' any more than the merchants on Michigan st. do. Here is a place where the old trick won't work. You can fool a butcher or a grocer or furniture dealer, but it will not work when dealing with God," said Rev. C. A. Decker, pastor of the First Baptist church, Sunday morning in his sermon on the subject "Debts."

"One cannot walk into God's storehouse of blessings, fill up a basket and say to the angel who waits on him, 'charge it please.' He will tell you we do not run a credit system up here! As long as we are in the world we go by the rule. We must pay our debts to God or we cannot have His blessings. Paid debts equal promises delivered.

Story of the Widow. "A widow was in debt and appealed to the Prophet Elisha to help her. The prophet told her to take the vessel of oil she had in the house and pour it out into other vessels. She did so and she was told and filled all the vessels she could borrow of her neighbors.

"It is not our business to doubt nor apologize for the miracles of the Old Testament, but to find the truth in the story and preach it. We may not have a repetition of the miracle in this day but we can have an application of the truth.

"The woman suffered a common affliction—debts. We can all sympathize with her for we all have them. And it is not a disgrace to have debts, but it is a disgrace not to pay them. As long as we are in the world we will owe something. However, we may stand on this matter among men, we will always owe a debt to God. It is a debt of gratitude. Nobody escapes this, though many fail to acknowledge it. And it is one of the sad failures of human life that so many people do not recognize the greatest of all our creditors, Our heavenly Father.

God Demands Honesty. "The woman acknowledged the debt and set about to find a way to pay the obligation. It meant that she must find some way to pay or give her sons in bondage for the debt, until the year of jubilee. Her sons constituted her very life. It is this way with us. We can pay our obligations to God or forfeit life and never. God does not give spiritual life to people who are not honest with him.

"When one is really anxious about the matter God finds some way to meet our obligations. Elisha found a way for the woman. It was unusual but effective. I do not believe God will go back on anybody who tries to meet his honest obligations. God's great promise is, 'Bring all the faithfulness into the score house and I will pour you out a blessing, has always been honored when presented. Here is a bank that is always solvent and the doors are never closed. Suppose we take God at his word. They have a little oil but they fear to pour it out lest it will not multiply and all will be lost. Well, it will never increase by keeping it in the jar. In fact, it will become stale and rancid. Let me ask you a question. Did the money you have kept back from God ever do you any good? Suppose we try God's method of running our financial affairs?

"The woman found Elisha's method effective. When the vessels were filled he said, 'Take what is necessary and pay the debt, and you and your sons live on the rest.' Thus God provides for our debts and our needs."

SAYS INGRATITUDE GREAT SIN OF DAY Rev. J. L. Gardiner Declares Ungratefulness to God Most Common Fault of Men.

The world is full of sins that lead a man to degradation fast and others that simply make him less agreeable but the most common one in the world today is ingratitude, said Rev. James L. Gardiner, D. D., pastor of St. Paul's Methodist church, Sunday morning in his sermon on the subject "The Sin of Ingratitude."

"In the days when Jesus walked this earth there came to Him 10 lepers, crying Jesus have mercy on us.' Jesus Christ, who never turned a single sorrowing suffering soul away, heard the cry and replied, 'Go show yourselves unto the priest.' And it came to pass as the lepers went forth to carry out the command of the Master that they were marvelously cleansed.

"And now for the sad part of the story. It is this: Ten were cleansed—cleansed from the worst of all diseases, save sin—and yet only one of the 10, and that one a Samaritan, returned to give thanks unto Christ for the healing. With bleeding heart Jesus looked at the nine who gave thanks unto Him, and said, 'Where were not 10 cleansed? Where are the nine?'

"The story of the nine, alas! is the story of thousands of men and women in our own day and time. God has showered many mercies and blessings upon them but they forget to say, 'Thank you.' Jesus Christ has done many things for them whereof they should be glad, nevertheless they go their way never once thinking it worth while to say 'Thank you, Lord.'

"And why are we so ungrateful? It is, perhaps, because we are so thoughtless. The word 'think' comes from the same root as the word 'thank' and it is because we are so 'unthankful' that we are so 'unthankful.'"

"We see this base ingratitude manifested by times in the home. Children forget how much they owe to their parents. No wonder Paul once wrote 'Children requite your parents in the Lord for this is right.' We are ungrateful sometimes for the country which we call ours. We are ungrateful toward the Church of Christ to which we owe so much. We are ungrateful toward God. We need again and again to be reminded of the Psalmist's injunction, 'Bless the Lord, O ye soul and forget not all his benefits.'"

"Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small, Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all."

GREAT DANGER OF DAY IS TO FORGET GOD

"Answers by Fire" was the subject at the Mizpah church Sunday night by the pastor, Rev. John O. Mosier, who said that this was one method that God used to communicate his approval and manifest his presence among the people.

"It is supposed," he said, "by some that when Abel brought his offering to the Lord that his approval mentioning in Genesis was that fire came down and consumed it, the same as that which came at the test in Ahab's time."

"God's presence with the Israelites was shown by a pillar of fire at night, and his appearance unto Moses calling him to his great work from the midst of the burning bush. When the law was given it was with fiery manifestations, and this presence at the dedication of the tabernacle first, and afterward at the temple assumed a similar character, so we can see in the Old Testament times His visible manifestations in this manner were frequent.

"The promise of the coming Saviour by Malachi says that He is to be like a refiner's fire. The herald of Christ's coming (John the Baptist) says that He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost there appeared upon the disciples' tongues as of fire, and we read that our God is a consuming fire.

"Fire is expressive of light and the Psalmist says the entrance of thy word giveth light; also of warmth, thawing out the frozen hearts by his goodness, for the goodness of God leadeth us to repentance! What the end shall be of those who do not repent and find peace will surely be what the Bible says of them (The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God), and that is the great danger today, forgetting God amidst the rush of business competition."

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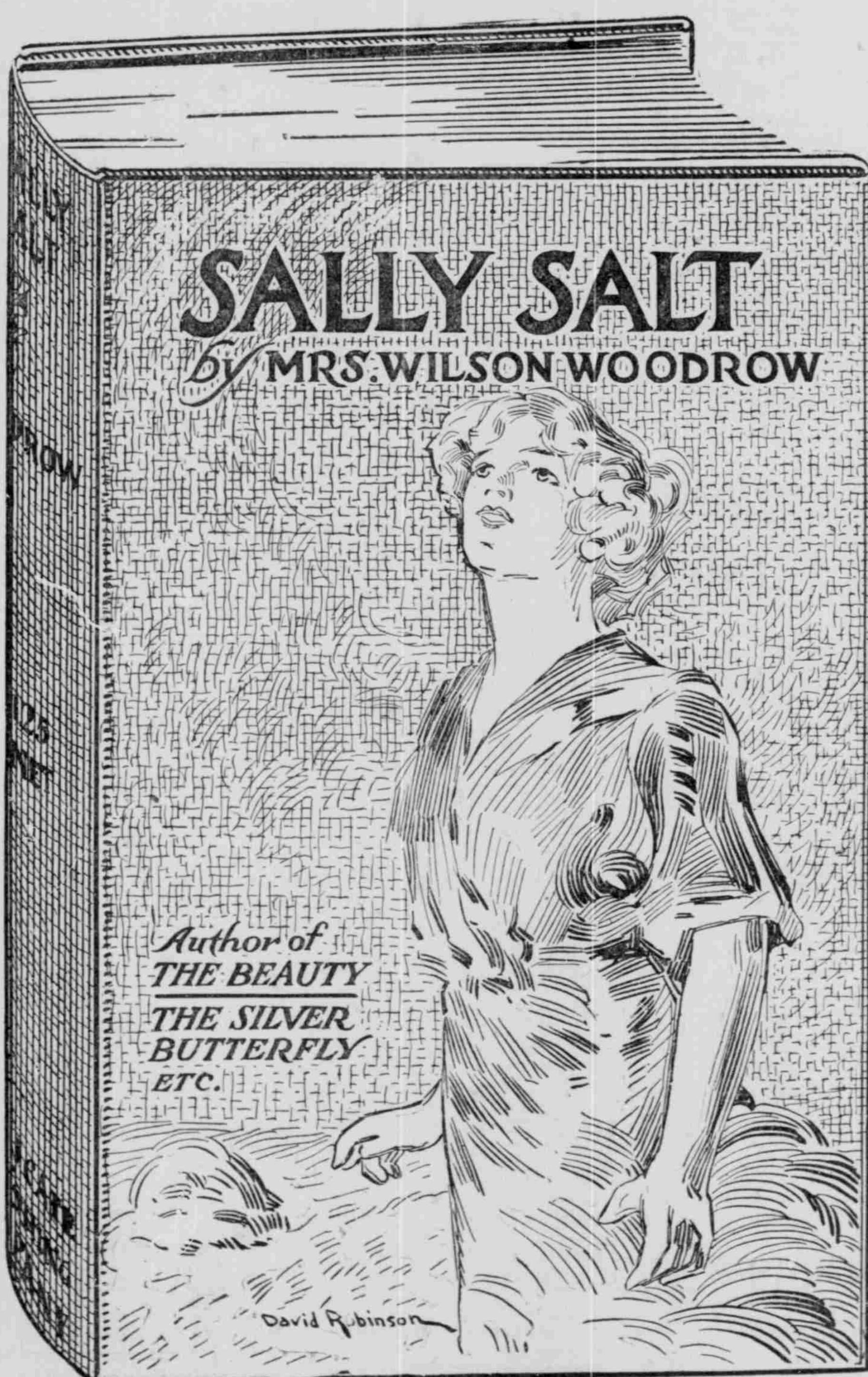
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